

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00
/064 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA: MARIETTI:MJT
APPROVED BY PM: JKAHAN
ACDA - JTWOMBLY
EA/TIMS - MEASTON

-----005985 232051Z /66

O R 232016Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 306450

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, XO

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS
REFERENCE: (A) STATE 302525 (B) SINGAPORE 5638,
(C) SINGAPORE 5648

1. SUBSEQUENT TO DISPATCH REFTEL A, SINGAPORE EMBASSY
FIRST SECRETARY RAM CHANDRA CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS RECENT ROUND OF US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS.
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DREW ON PARAS. 1-5 OF REFTEL A AND
IN ADDITION MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO CHANDRA'S
QUESTIONS:

- -- UNDER NO DEFINITION OF THE AREA CURRENTLY UNDER
DISCUSSION WOULD SINGAPORE BE CONSIDERED A LITTORAL STATE.
UNDER MOST LIMITED DEFINITION ALL OF STRAIT OF MALACCA
WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM AREA. THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE
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TO US AND MAY EVENTUALLY BE AGREED WITH SOVIETS.

- -- AGREEMENT WOULD LIMIT BOTH FORCES AND FACILITIES
IN THE REGION. WHILE BOTH SIDES AGREE NOT TO CONSTRUCT
NEW FACILITIES FOR THEIR OWN USE IN THE AREA THERE REMAIN
DIFFERENCES ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE.

- -- SOVIETS CONTINUE TO WANT TO TAKE FORCES OF US ALLIES AND US FORCES IN ADJACENT AREAS INTO ACCOUNT. US DOES NOT ACCEPT SOVIET POSITION.

2. DEPARTMENT PREFERS THAT EMBASSY LIMIT BRIEFING OF GOS OFFICIALS TO PARAS. 1-5 OF REFTEL A PLUS POINTS LISTED ABOVE. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE GOS INTEREST IN ISSUE, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND SOVIET POSITIONS TO SMALL NUMBER OF THIRD STATES. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO KEEP TALKS CONFIDENTIAL AND US WISHES TO MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOVIETS TO CHALLENGE US ACTIONS.

3. FYI: DURING MEETING CHANDRA STRESSED THAT GOS WOULD NOT FAVOR COMPLETE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AREA EVEN IF ACCOMPANIED BY SIMILAR SOVIET PULLOUT. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REPLIED THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING STABILIZATION OF US AND SOVIET PRESENCE WHICH WOULD PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF ARMS RACE IN THE AREA. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OCEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE306450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MARIETTI:MJT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770480-0276
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771220/aaaaaqpt.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7eb4cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 302525, 78 SINGAPORE 5638, 78 SINGAPORE 5648
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 136554
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS
TAGS: PARM, XO
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7eb4cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009